

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Docket No. 657004

Dennis et. al.

Serial No.: New Application

Filing Date: June 20, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: Unknown

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL ASSEMBLY

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Amended
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of this continuation application, which claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Application Serial No. 09/434,608, filed November 15, 1999, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph found at page 1 lines 2-3 of the specification as follows:

This application claims the benefit of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/434,608, filed November 5, 1999, which stands allowed and which claims benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/126,356 filed on March 26, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

~~Please cancel claims 1-31.~~

Please enter the following added Claim 32.

32. (Added) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for the insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;